

Lesson VII. SAMUEL CALLED TO BE A PROPHET February 14, 1915

1 Samuel 3 : 1-13, 19, 20. Study 1 Samuel 1 : 24-28 ; ch. 3—Memory Verses, 8, 9.

Golden Text—Speak, Lord ; for thy servant heareth.—1 Samuel 3 : 9.

1 And the child Sam'uel ministered unto the LORD before E'li. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days ; *there was no open vision.*

2 And it came to pass at that time, when E'li was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, *that he could not see ;*

3 And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Sam'uel was laid down to sleep ;

4 That the LORD called Sam'uel : and he answered, *Here am I.*

5 And he ran unto E'li, and said, *Here am I ;* for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not ; lie down again. And he went and lay down.

6 And the LORD called yet again, Sam'uel. And Sam'uel arose and went to E'li, and said, *Here am I ;* for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son ; lie down again.

7 Now Sam'uel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him.

8 And the LORD called Sam'uel again the third time. And he arose and went to E'li, and said, *Here am I ;* for thou didst call me. And E'li perceived that the LORD had called the child.

9 Therefore E'li said unto Sam'uel, Go, lie down ; and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, *Speak, LORD ; for thy servant heareth.* So Sam'uel went and lay down in his place.

10 And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Sam'uel, Sam'uel. Then Sam'uel answered, *Speak ; for thy servant heareth.*

11 And the LORD said to Sam'uel, Behold, I will do a thing in Is'rael, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.

12 In that day I will perform against E'li all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house : when I begin, I will also make an end.

13 For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth ; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not.

19 And Sam'uel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

20 And all Is'rael from Dan even to Beer-she'ba knew that Sam'uel was established to be a prophet of the LORD.

THE LESSON RETOLD

Miles and miles over a hard, stony road ! Hannah had come all that long distance from her home to bring her little son Samuel to the house of God. She was going to give her boy to the Lord, to do God's work all his life.

Two or three years before this Hannah had prayed very earnestly to the Lord, asking that she might have a son. The Lord had answered her prayer by sending Samuel to her ; and now the mother was going to give her little boy to the Lord who had sent him to her.

By and by Hannah reached the Lord's house. She took Samuel to Eli, the priest who had charge of the tabernacle, as the Lord's house was called in those days. Eli was going to be Samuel's teacher. He was going to show Samuel how to serve God. Eli, by this time, had become a very old man and could not see very well. There were a great many things which an active, willing little boy like Samuel could do to help him,

and we may be sure that Samuel was glad to do all he could.

Eli gave Samuel some work to do about God's house. He lighted the lamps, opened the doors and ran on errands.

One night when Samuel was fast asleep, some one called him. He sat up and listened. Then he ran to Eli's room. Samuel thought he was calling and that he needed some help. He said to Eli, "Here am I ; for I heard thee call." Eli answered, "I called not ; lie down again." Samuel went and lay down. Soon again the voice called, "Samuel."

Again Samuel hurried to Eli and said, "Here am I ; for thou calledst me." Eli answered, "I called not, my son ; lie down again."

The voice called for the third time. The third time Samuel went to Eli. Then Eli knew that it was the Lord's voice. He said to Samuel : "It is the voice of the Lord calling thee. Lie down ; and if He call thee, thou shalt say, 'Speak, Lord ; for Thy servant heareth.'" So Samuel went and lay